

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A motor drive apparatus comprising:
estimation means ~~(89, 91)~~-estimating an amount of demagnetization of a permanent magnet motor ~~(60)~~-based on a voltage control amount of the q axis applied in a case where said permanent magnet motor ~~(60)~~-is controlled using a d-q axis transformation; and
operation handling means ~~(91)~~-limiting an output of said permanent magnet motor ~~(60)~~-when said estimated amount of demagnetization is larger than a predetermined value.

2. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a converter ~~(20)~~-changing an input voltage necessary for driving said permanent magnet motor ~~(6)~~, wherein
said estimation means ~~(89, 91)~~-corrects said estimated amount of demagnetization according to the level of said input voltage.

3. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said estimation means ~~(89, 91)~~-estimates said amount of demagnetization by comparing the voltage control amount of the q axis to be controlled with a reference value.

4. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said estimation means ~~(89, 91)~~-holds, in the form of a map (MAP), the reference values correlated with at least two revolution numbers to extract said reference value from said map (MAP) and estimate said amount of demagnetization.

5. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said estimation means ~~(89, 91)~~ estimates said amount of demagnetization based on a difference between a reference value and the voltage control amount of the q axis to be controlled.

6. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said estimation means ~~(89, 91)~~ holds, in the form of a map (MAP), the reference values correlated with at least two revolution numbers to extract said reference value from said map (MAP) and estimate said amount of demagnetization.

7. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said reference value is said voltage control amount of the q axis when no demagnetization of said permanent magnet motor ~~(60)~~ occurs.

8. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said reference value is said voltage control amount of the q axis when no demagnetization of said permanent magnet motor ~~(60)~~ occurs.

9. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said reference value is said voltage control amount of the q axis when no demagnetization of said permanent magnet motor ~~(60)~~ occurs.

10. (Currently Amended) The motor drive apparatus according to claim 6, wherein

said reference value is said voltage control amount of the q axis when no
demagnetization of said permanent magnet motor (60) occurs.